Baltier FRE Farm, Whithorn:-

(PPC Application for new permit)

BF 4. Non- Technical Summary

The development into free range eggs represents a natural progression to diversify and add to the primary farm business.
All of the farm requires fertilising specific for crop and soil needs and the addition of a poultry unit will have the overall environmental benefit of making fertiliser readily available and the consequent reduction in need for bought in inorganic products. Further the production of a balanced organic manure will contribute significantly to the partnership ethos of reducing further, its carbon footprint.
At this site the existing anaerobic digester would benefit from a 'hen manure feed input to enhance energy generation whilst loosing little to no nutrient in the process.
The proposal is to have free range laying hens, housed in single story 'aviary system' with pop holes to the range.
Exhaust from the building will be directed primarily through roof fans, exhausting air from the roof ridge to height. Auxiliary gable end fans at the end of each building will also provide additional ventilation for use during occasional hot periods of the year.
64,000 birds will be housed in the two houses at Baltier. Both units (1 building with a central services / egg packing facility) will have a concrete base with a litter bed of wood shavings.
Birds will be received at approx. 16 weeks old as laying pullets and retained for approx. 65 weeks before 'depletion' and forwarding on to another farm for ultimate use in the food chain.
Depletion will therefore be less frequent than once / year.
Ventilation will be computer controlled to create a stable climate at around 21^0C and the air also improved in quality as it enters the building through modern inlet ports.
Air intakes will be predominantly on the roofs.
Drinking water (mains) supply to the birds will be to the latest design to minimise leakage / spillage and feed will be tailored to the birds' needs throughout the egg production cycle.
The principal emissions managed through the PPC permitting process are ammonia and dust to the air, both managed to minimise the risk of adversely impacting neighbouring habitation or the wider environment.
Water will not have a direct discharge to the environment except for a small domestic septic tank where effluent will discharge to a conventional soakaway.
The relatively small volume of waste water is only accumulated when the poultry houses are cleaned out at 'depletion' and contained in sealed tanks and disposed of either onto farm land, outside of the permitted site and compliant with good farming practice or be directed to the anaerobic digester as a 'feed line'.

Roof water and drainage adjacent to the houses will be treated and by swales which will also provide the necessary attenuation required to mitigate against climate change patterns.
Extensive tree planting (20% of the range) will contribute to both air quality and overall bird welfare.
Tailoring the protein in feedstuffs during the cycle will additionally reduce the potential for ammonia generation and significantly, the installation of *forced air drying* on the manure belts will

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not only prevent ammonia being generated but will keep nitrogen in the manure for subsequent us as a fertiliser.

When removed from the houses, the old litter / dried manure on the floor will also be used as a valuable organic nutrient source for the digester with ultimate disposal to own and / or local farmland and applied using appropriate methods equipment and timing.

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